of the year, as a result of which the total sales under tobacco rose from 14,807 candies to 16,510 candies. The average consumption per head of population was 4·3 lbs.

10. **Customs.**—The net customs revenue rose from Rs. 12,04,135 to Rs. 13,67,980, showing an increase of Rs. 1,63,845. The duty on goods imported for the use of the State was hitherto included in the calculation of the amount payable by the British Government, under the Interportal Trade Convention. On a representation from the State, however, that Government has agreed to its exclusion in future. Of the total duty levied, that on exports amounted to 93·9 per cent. The port of Alleppey was exempted from the rule prohibiting the shipping of goods before payment of duty, and the rules relating to the bonding of goods in the warehouse at that port were revised during the year. The development of the port of Alleppey has engaged the serious attention of the Government and the appointment of a full-time Port Officer, possessing nautical experience, has been sanctioned. He is expected to join duty very shortly.

11. **Stamps.**—The net revenue from stamps rose from Rs. 16,62,483 to Rs. 17,92,484, while the gross revenue reached the high figure of Rs. 19,18,820.

PROTECTION.

12. **The Legislative Council.**—Four ordinary meetings and one extraordinary meeting of the Legislative Council were held during the year. Eleven Regulations were passed by the Council and one direct by His Highness the Maha Raja. The most important piece of legislation was the Co-operative Societies Regulation, X of 1089. The benefits of this measure are bound to be far-reaching. Mr. C. Govinda Pillai, B. A., B. L., a seasoned revenue officer, has been appointed Registrar of Co-operative Societies, and arrangements have been made for his receiving adequate training in British India, before entering on his duties. The Hackney Carriages Regulation, VI of 1089, and the Game Preservation Regulation, XII of 1089, are also worthy of special mention. Since the close of the year, five more Regulations have been passed, including the Village Panchayat Courts Regulation, I of 1090, and the Opium Regulation, IV of 1090. It is hoped that, when the Village Panchayat Courts are established, the congestion of work in the Civil Courts in regard to petty suits will be appreciably reduced.

13. In regard to the Elementary Education Bill, introduced into the Council by Mr. P. K. Kesava Pillai, I regret to observe that it had to be thrown out. The interests of the Government and those of the people in the matter of universal free primary education are identical. I cannot, however, help repeating that it is practically impossible to introduce compulsory education without additional taxation.

14. In regard to the Jenmi and Kudiyan Regulation, V of 1071, the amendment of which has formed the subject of representation in several Sessions of the Assembly, I would invite your attention to G. O. No. J. 227, dated the 5th January 1915, from which it will be seen that the Government have resolved to appoint a Committee to enquire into the working of that Regulation. Both the Jenmies and the Kudiyans will be represented on the Committee. I would, however, remind the Jenmi members of the Assembly that it is impossible for the Government to go back upon the broad policy laid down by the Proclamation of 1042, in favour of the tenants' fixity of tenure in the lands held by them on kanapattom.

15. A vacancy will soon arise in the Legislative Council, consequent on the expiry of the term of Mr. P. K. Kesava Pillai, who had been returned by the Members of the Trivandrum Division. His Highness the Maha Raja has been pleased to command that the Members of that Division will now meet under the presidency of the Dewan Peishkar, Trivandrum, to elect a representative, whose name will be submitted to His Highness for consideration.

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